(c) The sound meters have been purchased to check noise pollution in National Capital Territory of Delhi which were distributed to the concerned Police Officers. Violators against the pressure horns, playing of music in vehicles etc. are prosecuted by Delhi Police. The details of the violation and challans are given below:

Number of cases	2001	2002	2003 (upto 15.11.2003)
Pressure Horn	191546	187723	138759
Honking Horn	—	30108	10033
Playing Music	4852	7125	10967
TOTAL :	196398	224956	159759

Setting up of a National Ecology Body

392. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a National Ecological Body with six regional authorities to assist the National Body;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the functions and duties proposed to be assigned to them; and

(c) by when, these bodies are likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest cover in Assam

393. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest cover maintained in Assam during each of last ten years;

(b) the action taken to prevent future depletion of natural habitat of wild lives;

(c) the list of schemes and programmes being implemented through NGOs; and

(d) the location-wise list of NGOs and eco clubs in Assam granted assistance for Environment Education and under UNDP-GEF/CCF small grant programme indicating criteria of selection and grants released during the last three years to each organization?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The assessment of forest cover by Forest Survey of India is done on biennial basis. The total forest cover in Assam during the last ten years on two year cycle as per assessments made by the Forest Survey of India is as follows:

Year of Assessment	Area in Sq. kms.
1991	24,751
1993	24,508
1995	24,061
1997	23,824
1999	23,688
2001	27,714

(b) Government provides technical and financial assistance to the Government of Assam for development and protection of natural habitat of wildlife in the notified Protected Areas. Funds amounting to Rs. 70.55 lakhs, Rs. 162.135 lakhs, Rs. 93.68 lakhs have been provided to the State of Assam during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till November 2003) respectively.

(c) The schemes and programmes being implemented through NGOs are:

1. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies Scheme.
2. UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme.
3. National Environmental Awareness Campaign.

(d) District-wise list of Eco-clubs granted assistance is at Statement-I (*See* below). An amount of Rs. 33.83 lakhs has been released during the last three years to Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council for running the Eco-clubs. The location-wise list of NGOs who are implementing various projects in Assam under UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme alongwith the grants released is at

Statement-II. (*See* below). The project provides grants to organizations for activities that address local problems and activities that offer local solutions to global problems in the areas of bio-diversity conservation, International waters and climate change. As regards the criteria for selection, these NGOs are selected on the basis of the project proposals which are submitted to the National Host Institution appointed for the project. Subsequently, these proposals are short-listed by a National Standing Committee for consideration by the National Steering Committee.

Statement-I

Districts-wise list of eco-clubs granted assistance in Assam

Sl. No.	Districts	Nos.
1.	Goalpara	100
2.	Dhubri	100
3.	Kokrajhar	100
4.	Bongaigaon	100
5.	Dhemaji	100
6.	Lakhimpur	100
7.	Sonitpur	100
8.	Darrang	100
9.	Kamrup	100
10.	Nalbari	100
11.	Barpeta	100
12.	Cachar	100
13.	Hailakandi	100
14.	Karimganj	100
15.	Golaghat	100
16.	Nagaon	100
17.	Morigaon	List yet to be received
18.	North Cachar Hills	100
19.	Karbi Anglong	50
20.	Tinsukia	100
21.	Dibrugarh	100
22.	Sibsagar	100
23.	Jorhat	100

Statement-II

Location-wise list of NGOs granted assistance in Assam under UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the NGOs	Amount Sanctioned	Released Amount		Physical Progress
			2001-2002	2002-2003	
1.	Nabjagran Sanstha, Barpeta	3.30	1.32	1.32	Project on going
2.	Assam Science Society, Latasil	5.01	2.00	2.00	Project on going
3.	Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha, Dighalipukhri.	3.58	1.43	1.43	Project on going
4.	Centre for All Round Development, Darrang	4.00	1.60	1.60	Project on going
5.	Nature's Beckon, Dubhuri	4.20	—	1.68	Project on going
	TOTAL :	20.08	6.35	8.03	

Violation of Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1995

394. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's Department of Forests and Wildlife has sanctioned permission for felling or pruning of 45,219 tress over the past five years and the saplings supposed to be planted *in lieu* of each tree cut have either died without a trace or are yet to grow into full fledged greenery;

(b) if so, who is responsible for violation of provision of Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1995, stipulating 10 saplings to be planted *in lieu* of each tree cut or pruned; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for this lapse?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi has granted permission for felling of 41,925 trees over